

From: Hawkins, Kathy G [Kathy.Hawkins@duke-energy.com]
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CC: Hawkins, Kathy G [Kathy.Hawkins@duke-energy.com]; Vick, Susan F [Susan.Vick@duke-energy.com]; Kukura, Kelli [Kelli.Kukura@duke-energy.com]
Subject: [External] Atlantic Coast Pipeline

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Good morning.

Last week's sustained record-cold temperatures highlight yet another reason the Atlantic Coast Pipeline is so urgently needed for North Carolina customers.

With furnaces running furiously in residential homes, hospitals, commercial, and industrial buildings to protect from the freezing temperatures, demand for natural gas soared causing prices to spike.

In North Carolina, prices for natural gas on the Transcontinental Pipeline (in Zone 5) surged **tenfold** to \$34.05/Mcf and more during the cold snap from \$3.28/Mcf the week prior. In contrast, the abundant natural gas from the Marcellus/Utica shale basins in the Northeast remained at approximately \$3.04/Mcf throughout the deep freeze.

Transportation constraints and the resulting price spikes are all too common in North Carolina, given the Transcontinental Pipeline is the only major natural gas interstate transmission line in the state. During the recent cold weather, the price spike was not a result of a lack of natural gas supply but rather a lack of transportation infrastructure to move it to where it is needed the most. As a result, customers are at the mercy of price shocks when demand goes up.

For utilities, clean, low-cost natural gas has become the primary fuel for generating electricity, but a limited network of pipelines and related infrastructure has squeezed availability in certain parts of the country, including North Carolina.

This real-life example is a powerful illustration of how an alternate supply of natural gas from the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will help our customers and your constituents save more of their hard-earned money.

Thank you for your continued support of this important and vital project. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Kathy Hawkins
Vice President, NC Government Affairs
919-546-7111 (o)
919-609-2827 (c)

Kelli Kukura
Director, NC Government Affairs
919-546-3027 (o)
919-889-9040 (c)

Susan Vick
Director, NC Government Affairs
919-546-6073 (o)
919-618-3713 (c)

